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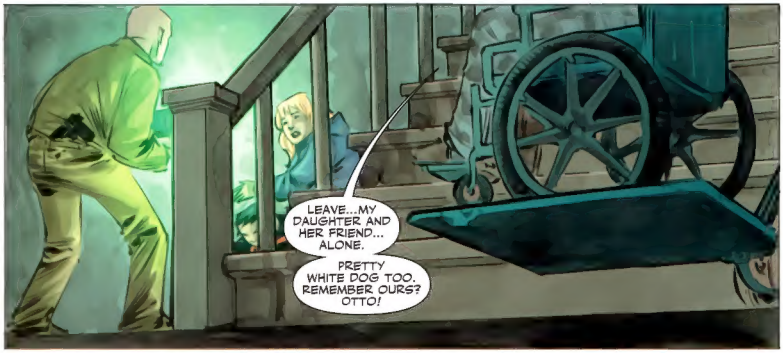
WHAT DID SUPERMAN DO?
√ 1) FACED OFF AGAINST LEX LUTHOR.
YOU'RE... LEX LUTHOR'S *NIECE*?
TECHNICALLY, YES.
BUT LEX LUTHOR DOESN'T HAVE--
FAMILY?
NONE I WANTED THE WORLD TO KNOW ABOUT, SUPERBOY. DURING MY SUIT-AND-TIE YEARS, I SPENT AN AWFUL LOT OF MONEY TO BURY MY TRACKS FROM SMALLVILLE TO METROPOLIS.
IN ALL HONESTY, I SHOULD'VE BURIED MY SISTER AND HER DAUGHTER TOO.
UM. *RIGHT* HERE, UNCLE LEX.
DON'T CALL ME THAT, LORI. YOU DON'T KNOW ME.
I *DO* KNOW YOU. MOM TOLD ME ALL ABOUT YOU. HOW YOU USED TO SELL LEMONADE. AND, Y'KNOW, TAKE APART SMALL ANIMALS.
SHE SHOULDN'T HAVE.
I WARNED HER ONCE.
NNGG.
LEXIE.


LEAVE...MY DAUGHTER AND HER FRIEND... ALONE.
PRETTY WHITE DOG TOO. REMEMBER OURS? OTTO!

LENA?
MOM!

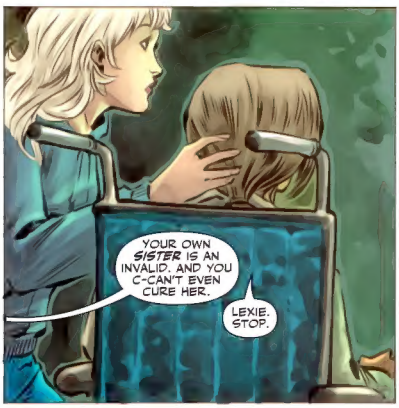
YOU SHOULDN'T COME DOWNSTAIRS. YOU KNOW YOU MIGHT FALL AGAIN.

WHAT DO YOU W-WANT, LUTHOR?
RRFF

I WOULDN'T MIND KICKING SUPERMAN'S DOG, TO BE HONEST.

YOU'RE A R-REAL HUMANITARIAN, LEX.
I *WOULD* BE, SUPERBOY, IF IT WASN'T FOR--

SUPERMAN.
YEAH. *RIGHT,* LUTHOR. I'VE HEARD THIS SPIEL A *HUNDRED* TIMES. *SUPERMAN* IS WH-WHAT IS HOLDING THE WORLD BACK. *SUPERMAN* IS KEEPING THE WORLD FROM SOLVING ITS OWN PROBLEMS.
AND IF *SUPERMAN* WASN'T IN YOUR WAY, YOU WOULD'VE CURED CANCER, HUNGER AND DISEASE IN A SINGLE AFTERNOON.
GIVE ME A *BREAK.*

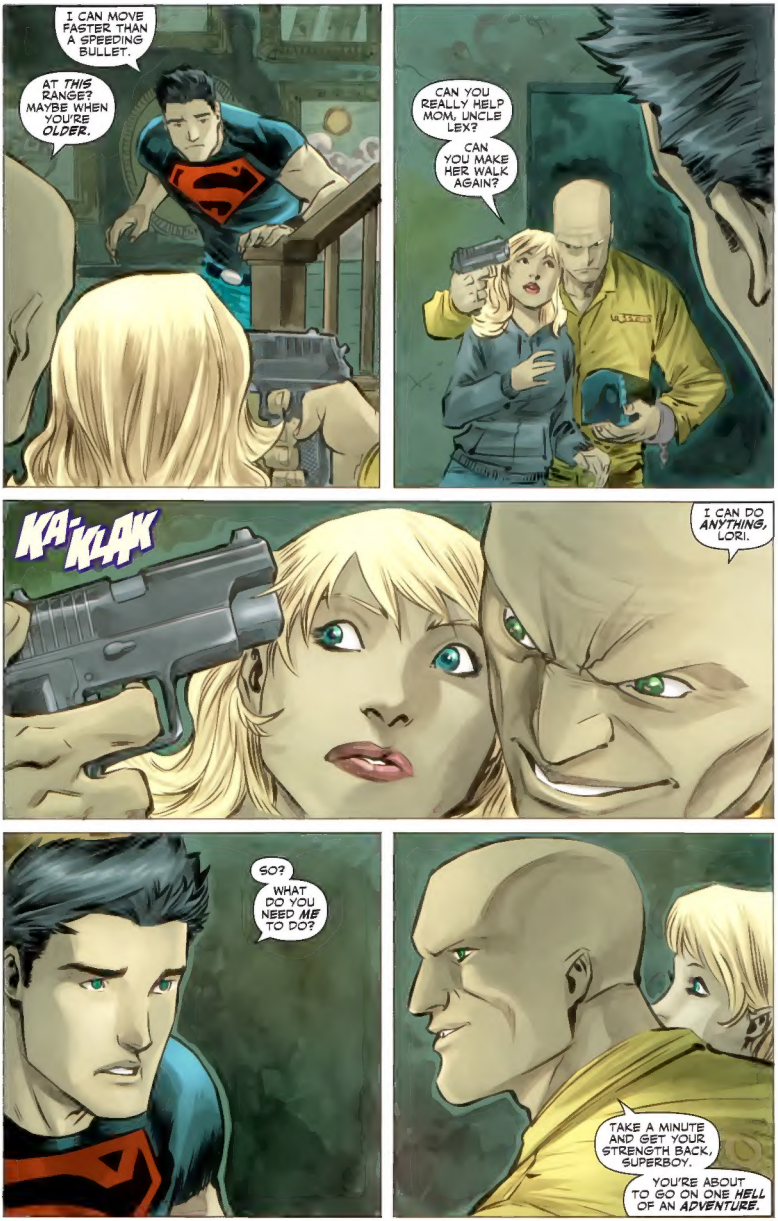

YOUR OWN *SISTER* IS AN INVALID. AND YOU C-CAN'T EVEN CURE HER.
LEXIE. STOP.

I CAN.
SHNHH

YOU *CAN?*
YOU CAN *WHAT?* YOU CAN CURE MOM?

THEN WHY DON'T YOU?

BECAUSE SUPERMAN--
SUPERMAN IS *OFF-PLANET,* CUE BALL.
SO *DO* IT.
DO SOMETHING *GOOD.*
PROVE TO ME, TO THE *WORLD,* THAT YOU CAN DO SOMETHING GOOD.
I CAN.
I WILL.
BUT *YOU'RE* GOING TO HELP ME, SUPERBOY.
AND IF YOU DO *ANYTHING* OTHER THAN EXACTLY WHAT I SAY--
--OR TALK TO *ANYONE* BUT ME--
--I'LL KILL HER.
UNDERSTOOD?

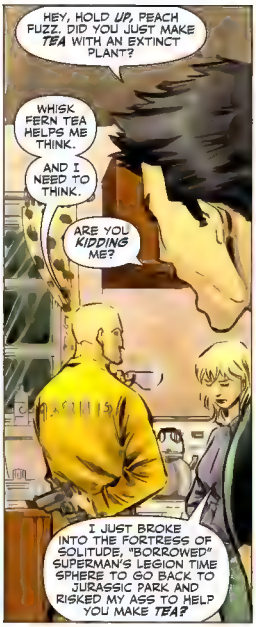

I CAN MOVE FASTER THAN A SPEEDING BULLET.
AT THIS RANGE? MAYBE WHEN YOU'RE OLDER.
CAN YOU REALLY HELP MOM, UNCLE LEX?
CAN YOU MAKE HER WALK AGAIN?
KA-KLAK
I CAN DO ANYTHING, LORI.
SO? WHAT DO YOU NEED ME TO DO?
TAKE A MINUTE AND GET YOUR STRENGTH BACK, SUPERBOY.
YOU'RE ABOUT TO GO ON ONE HELL OF AN ADVENTURE.

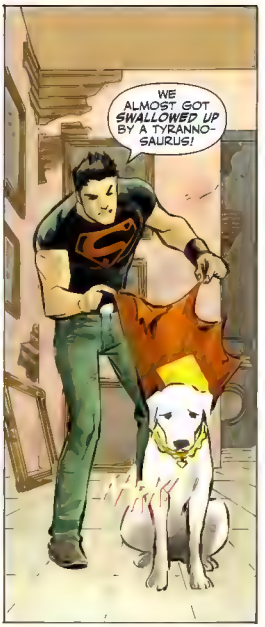
WAIT FOR ME!
RRARRF!
DC Comics Proudly Presents
SUPERBOY
THE BOY OF STEEL
PART FIVE
GEOFF JOHNS WRITER FRANCIS MANAPUL ARTIST
BRIAN BUCCELLATO COLORIST STEVE WANDS LETTERER
FRANCIS MANAPUL AND BRIAN BUCCELLATO COVERS
SEAN RYAN ASSOCIATE EDITOR
BRIAN CUNNINGHAM EDITOR
Special thanks to RICHARD ZIRAC
CLOSELY LISTEN THE ADVENTURES OF A SUPERMAN AND THE HUMAN CLAN AS OF LEX LUTHOR, COMMANDER KENT FIGHTS FOR TRUTH, JUSTICE AND THE AMERICAN WAY AS
SUPERBOY

I TOLD YOU NOT TO BARK AT THE DINOSAURS.
I KNOW. THIS IS CRAZY.
BUT WHAT IF HE REALLY CAN DO IT, KRYPTO? WHAT IF HE CAN MAKE LORI'S MOM WALK AGAIN?
WE HAVE TO TRY.
RRAFF!
CHOMP!
WHOA! WATCH IT, PAL!
YOU'RE WELCOME.
SLURK
AH! HERE IT IS.
ONE PREHISTORIC LEAF FOUND.

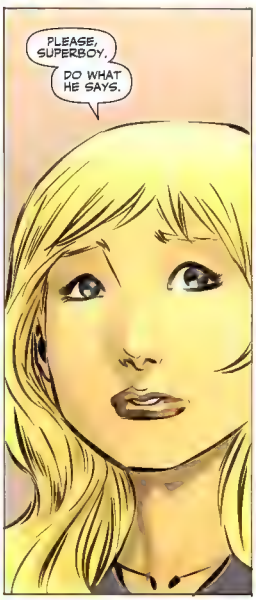
PREHISTORIC WHISK FERN.
NO--HFF--PROBLEM.
YES.
9 3 8 01
THIS WILL DO.

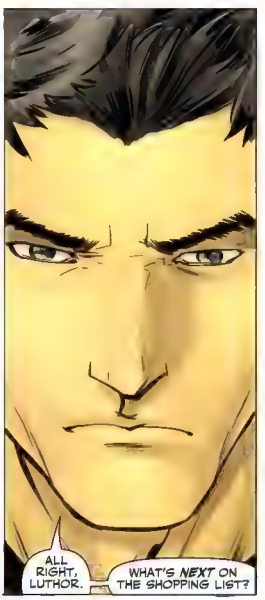
MM.


HEY, HOLD UP, PEACH FUZZ. DID YOU JUST MAKE TEA WITH AN EXTINCT PLANT?
WHISK FERN TEA HELPS ME THINK.
AND I NEED TO THINK.
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?
I JUST BROKE INTO THE FORTRESS OF SOLITUDE, "BORROWED" SUPERMAN'S LEGION TIME SPHERE TO GO BACK TO JURASSIC PARK AND RISKED MY ASS TO HELP YOU MAKE TEA?


WE ALMOST GOT SWALLOWED UP BY A TYRANNOSAURUS!

THIS IS A PROCESS, SUPERBOY.
MY THOUGHT PROCESS.
IF YOU WANT ME TO HELP MY SISTER WALK AGAIN, YOU'LL DO EVERYTHING I SAY.

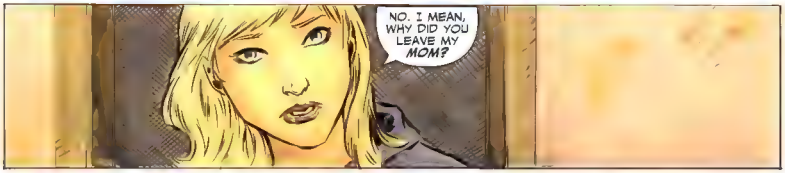

PLEASE, SUPERBOY.
DO WHAT HE SAYS.


ALL RIGHT, LUTHOR.
WHAT'S NEXT ON THE SHOPPING LIST?

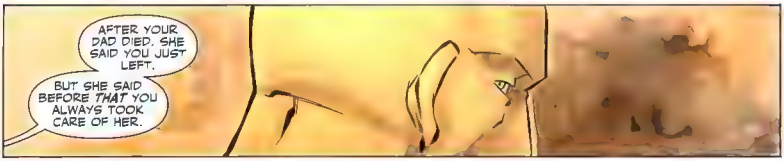
WHAT DID SUPERMAN DO?
LOOK AT THAT, PAL.
OUR LITTLE FIRE IS DRAWING THE MOTHS OUT. THOUGH NOT EXACTLY HOW I WOULD'VE THOUGHT.
ME AM HELP FOREST FIRE GROW!
BUT YOU KNOW THE PLAN:
RRRRRR!
GET 'EM!
POINK
√ 12) WENT TO BIZARRO WORLD.

WHY DID YOU LEAVE?
IF YOU *CAN'T* UNDERSTAND WHY I LEFT THIS RIDICULOUS LITTLE BLEMISH OF A TOWN, LOR, YOU'RE BEYOND EVEN *MY* HELP.

√13) VISITED PARADISE ISLAND.
HEY, HANDSOME.
HEY, YOURSELF


NO. I MEAN, WHY DID YOU LEAVE MY *MOM?*

√14) SWAM TO ATLANTIS.

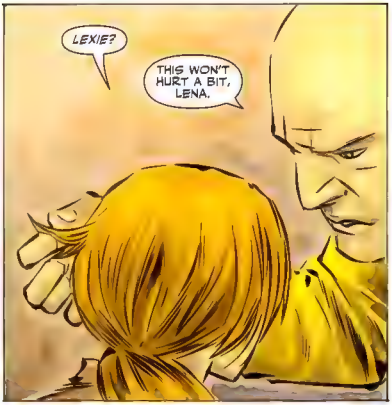

AFTER YOUR DAD DIED, SHE SAID YOU JUST LEFT.
BUT SHE SAID BEFORE *THAT* YOU ALWAYS TOOK CARE OF HER.

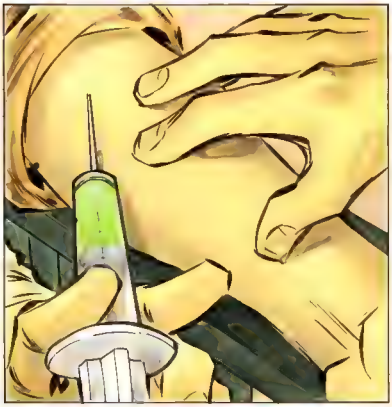
MY FATHER WAS INCAPABLE OF TAKING CARE OF ANYONE, LORI, INCLUDING HIMSELF.
AFTER HIS UNFORTUNATE HEART ATTACK, MY AUNT VOLUNTEERED TO WATCH OVER LENA...SO I COULD PURSUE THINGS OUTSIDE OF SMALLVILLE. AND I HAD MANY THINGS TO DO. AN EMPIRE TO BUILD.
AN EMPIRE I'LL BUILD AGAIN.
ARE THESE ALL OF LENA'S MEDICAL FILES?
SHE USED TO TALK A LOT MORE, BUT HER MIND'S STARTED TO GO TOO. THE DOCTORS DON'T KNOW WHAT'S WRONG WITH HER.
I MISS TALKING TO HER.
DO YOU MISS TALKING TO HER?
WE NEVER REALLY--
LEXIE?
I'M GLAD DAD WASN'T THERE NO MORE.
OH... I'M SO GLAD.
BIG BIG BROTHER WATCHING OUT FOR ME.

THAT'S EVERYTHING?
YES. IT IS.
DON'T THINK I HAVEN'T THOUGHT ABOUT THE ALTERNATIVE HERE.
THE ALTERNATIVE? TO WHAT?
TO WHAT YOU'RE COOKING UP.
YOU COULD'VE SENT ME ON THIS WILD-GOOSE CHASE TO GET INGREDIENTS FOR SOME KIND OF SUPER-WEAPON OR NEW COLOR KRYPTONITE.
YOU DON'T TRUST ANYONE, DO YOU?
WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?
4) DOESN'T TRUST ANYONE.
RIGHT NOW. TRUST ME.

SUPERBOY!
IT'S DONE.

LUTHOR--
JUST SHUT UP. FOR ONCE.


LEXIE?
THIS WON'T HURT A BIT, LENA.



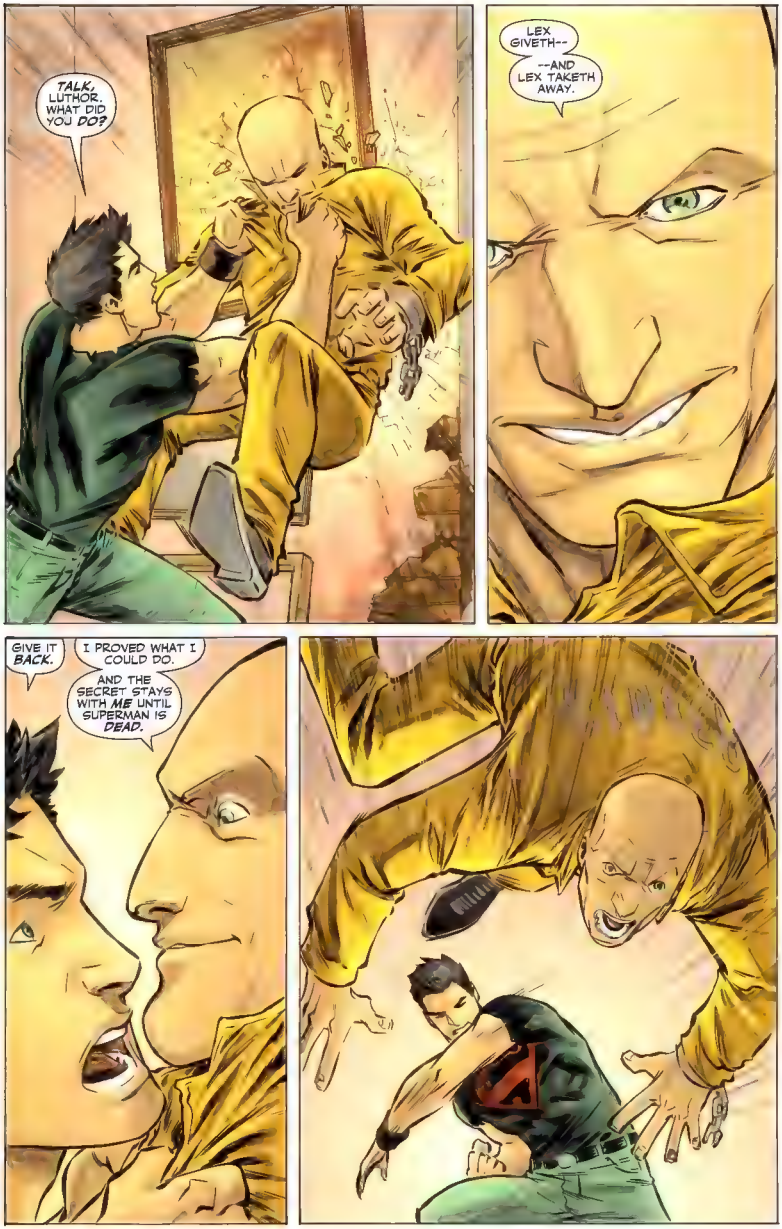
MOM--?
IT'S OKAY.

LORI?

MOM!?!
YOU'RE OKAY, MOM!
OH, MY GOD.
YOU'RE OKAY!
THANK YOU.
THANK YOU, UNCLE LEX.
LEXIE?
WHAT ARE YOU DOING HERE? WHAT'S GOING ON?

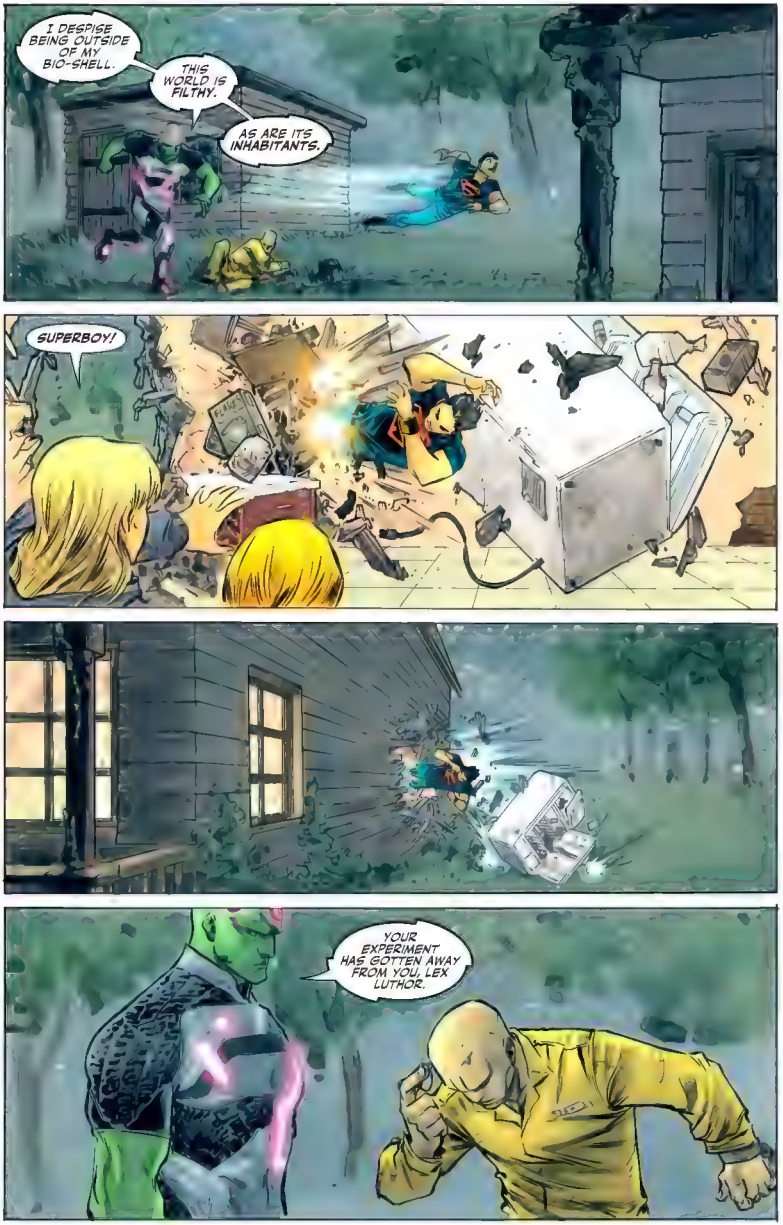
YOU DID IT. YOU ACTUALLY DID IT.
IT'S A MIRACLE.
MIRACLES DON'T EXIST.
BUT LEX LUTHOR DOES.
WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?
S) MAKES PEOPLE WALK AGAIN.

MY DEAR, DEAR SISTER.
YOU LOOK BEAUTIFUL.
YOU ALWAYS DID.
IT WAS SO NICE TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
LEX--
NNNGG.
MOM!
MOM!?!
LUTHOR?!
WHAT DID YOU DO?!
PFFF
PFFF
PFFF


TALK, LUTHOR. WHAT DID YOU DO?
LEX GIVETH--
--AND LEX TAKETH AWAY.
GIVE IT BACK.
I PROVED WHAT I COULD DO.
AND THE SECRET STAYS WITH ME UNTIL SUPERMAN IS DEAD.

YOU'RE-- PTTT--YOU'RE NOT MUCH LIKE SUPERMAN AT ALL, ARE YOU?
AND I'M NOT LIKE YOU. I'LL NEVER BE LIKE YOU.
TO DO THAT TO SOMEONE. TO CRUSH THEIR HOPES.
TO RUIN LIVES.
WHAT DOES LEX LUTHOR DO?
THAT'S EVIL. THAT'S TRUE EVIL.
I) DESTROYS HIS ENEMIES.
WHAP

INTERESTING.
HE HAS KAL-EL'S EYES.

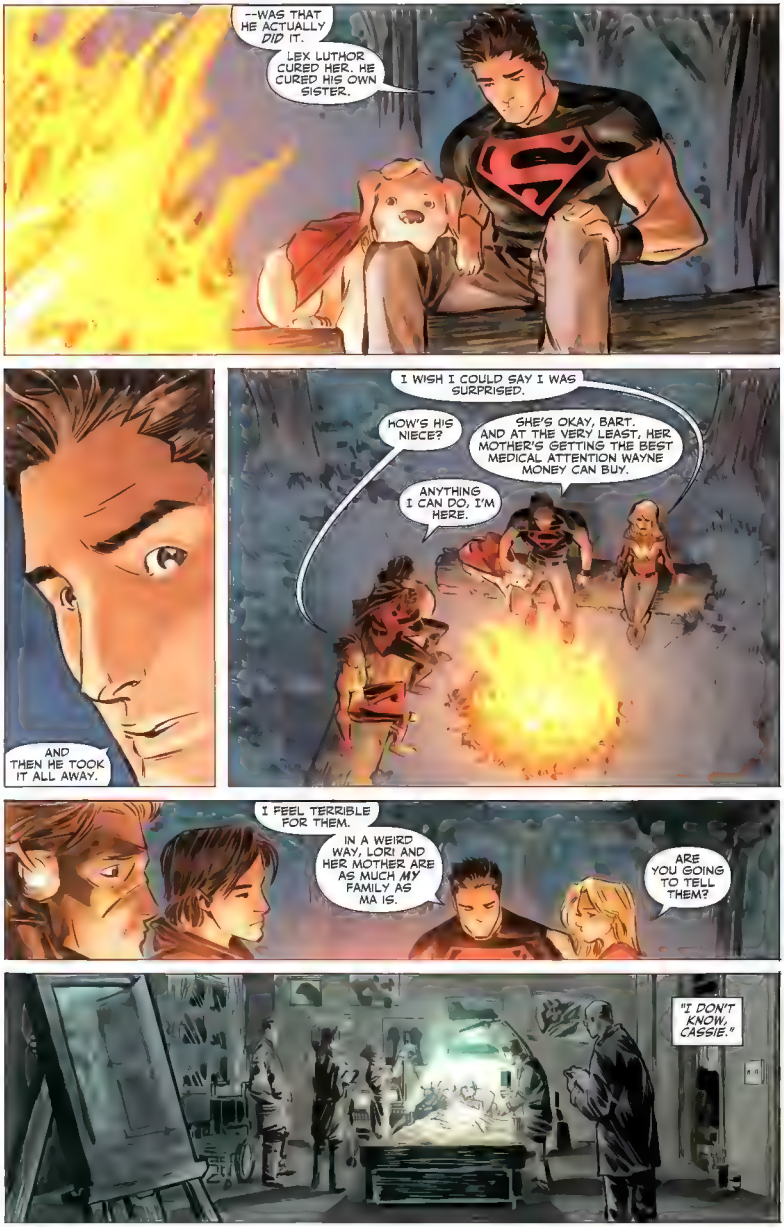

I DESPISE BEING OUTSIDE OF MY BIO-SHELL.
THIS WORLD IS FILTHY.
AS ARE ITS INHABITANTS.
SUPERBOY!
YOUR EXPERIMENT HAS GOTTEN AWAY FROM YOU, LEX LUTHOR.

HOLD HIM, BRAINIAC.
I HAVE SOMETHING TO *FORCE FEED* THAT ALIEN MUTT AND SETTLE HIM DOWN FOR GOOD.
PTANG
HELP HER, UNCLE LEX.
KA-KAK
GET BACK *IN* HERE AND HELP MOM *NOW!*

THIS ANIMAL APPEARS TO HOLD NO USEFUL KNOWLEDGE.
HE MAY NOT SPEAK, BRAINIAC--
--BUT HE HAS MORE HEART THAN YOU OR LUTHOR EVER WILL.
AND THINKING WITH YOUR HEART IS YOUR DOWNFALL, SUPERBOY.

THERE IS NO MORE TO LEARN FROM THIS SITUATION.
AGREED. THEY'VE LEARNED ALL THEY WILL.
KIK KIK
KOK
GIVE SUPERMAN MY REGARDS, SUPERBOY.
AND BE SURE TO TELL HIM WHAT I DID HERE TODAY.
NO!
DON'T LEAVE YOUR SISTER LIKE THIS!
YOU CAN'T BE THAT CRUEL!
YOU CAN'T BE--!!

DAMMIT.
LORI...
LORI!
"THE WORST PART OF IT ALL--"


--WAS THAT HE ACTUALLY DID IT.
LEX LUTHOR CURED HER. HE CURED HIS OWN SISTER.
AND THEN HE TOOK IT ALL AWAY.
I WISH I COULD SAY I WAS SURPRISED.
HOW'S HIS NIECE?
SHE'S OKAY, BART. AND AT THE VERY LEAST, HER MOTHER'S GETTING THE BEST MEDICAL ATTENTION WAYNE MONEY CAN BUY.
ANYTHING I CAN DO, I'M HERE.
I FEEL TERRIBLE FOR THEM.
IN A WEIRD WAY, LORI AND HER MOTHER ARE AS MUCH MY FAMILY AS MA IS.
ARE YOU GOING TO TELL THEM?
"I DON'T KNOW, CASSIE."

WHAT I DO KNOW, IN MY HEART, IS THAT I'LL NEVER BE LIKE LEX LUTHOR.
WHAT DID SUPERMAN DO?
I DON'T NEED A JOURNAL OR A LAB TEST TO TELL ME THAT.
NOT ANYMORE.
√!S) WAS SUPERBOY.

EPILOGUE
YOU DID NOT REGAIN YOUR BIOWEAPON.
AND YOU WASTED TIME AND ENERGY IN PURSUING AND INTERACTING WITH SUPERBOY.
WHY?
TO PROVE A POINT, BRAINIAC. WHICH I DID.
I WARN YOU NOW, LEX LUTHOR, IF YOUR EMOTIONS FOR YOUR SON GET IN THE WAY OF THE WAR AGAINST KAL-EL AND HIS KIND--
SUPERBOY IS NO LONGER MY SON, BRAINIAC.
HE WAS A MISTAKE. A FAILED EXPERIMENT.
BECAUSE I USED THE WRONG ALIEN D.N.A.
SO LET'S TRY PHASE TWO.
THE END...FOR NOW.

• JOHNS • MANAPUL • BUCCELLATO •

This past November, five lucky students from the Harvey Milk High School in New York got an all-access tour of the DC Comics offices. Our guests were participants in the school's career day, an event designed to highlight and promote positive gay, lesbian, bisexual, and transgender role models in the workplace. Not only did the young people get to see the process of creating a comic book from start to finish, but they also got to interact with DC staff members, as well as meet President and Publisher **Paul Levitz**, and art-direct an illustration with former Birds of Prey artist **David Cole**.

During the course of their time at DC, the students saw sneak previews of some big events coming up in the DCU including War of the Supermen, JLA: Rise and Fall and other books still too top-secret to mention outside these walls. We were extremely happy to host such a wonderful bunch and hope to see them again soon!

DC NATION

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